



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Shana Jones, Special Assistant
Daryl Fields, Public Information Officer
(210) 384-7440

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**RAPPER "TWISTED BLACK" SENTENCED TO 30 YEARS
IN DRUG CONSPIRACY CASE**

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that 35-year-old Tommy Delando Burns of Fort Worth, Texas, was sentenced today to 30 years in federal prison. In November 2006, a federal jury sitting in Midland, Texas, convicted Burns—a rapper known professionally as "Twisted Black"—of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute 50 grams or more of cocaine base, "crack." The jury also convicted Burns of two substantive counts of distribution of cocaine base, "crack."

According to testimony from the trial, Burns and others conspired to distribute cocaine base, "crack," between 2001 and June of 2005. Much of the "crack" was distributed by Burns in 2005, when he was transporting the drugs from Fort Worth to Midland, then distributing to various street-level "crack" dealers in Midland and Odessa.

"Tommy Burns had a potential career as a recording artist. He threw it away by choosing to sell large quantities of crack cocaine instead of his recordings," stated United States Attorney Johnny Sutton.

In addition to the prison sentence, United States District Judge ordered that Burns, who has remained in custody since his arrest in 2006, be placed under supervised release for a period of five years after completing his prison term.

This case was investigated by the Midland Police Department with assistance from the Drug Enforcement Administration and prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jeff Parras.

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